Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC

2023, No. 06 June 2024

Field Day 2024

June 22 and 23 is Amateur Radio Field Day. The San Antonio Radio Club (ARCS) identifies itself as a group that likes to eat barbeque and has a radio habit. At no time is that more true than Field Day. This year the club will be joined by the Alamo Area Radio Organization, (AARO) club and Field Day will be bigger than ever. The site, the pavilion at Shavano Park's city offices, is big enough to accommodate everyone.

As usual, Field Day is an excellent time for new hams to get experience in operating under less than optimal conditions as in an emergency situation. That's part of the exercise. Also, it is an opportunity to get on the air and make contacts, and you don't even need a license. A licensed ham will be the "control operator" and you can talk, briefly, to stations across the United States and maybe overseas. Here's what the American Radio Relay League says about Field Day:

The next meeting, June 13, 2024, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602 . Program: Field Day

Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

Objective

To contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-,15- and 10-Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

(Continued on page 6)

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
06	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		June 2024

TO

Hello South Texas,

Field Day 2024 at The City of Shavano Park will be better than ever!

We are honored that the Alamo Area Radio Club (AARO) voted to come to join SARC for a joint Field Day event this year. Talk-in will be on the AA5RO 147.38 repeater.

The site has a pavilion and large fans to circulate the air. It is surrounded by oak trees to keep the area cool in the heat.

If you would like to bring your own radio or bring your own antenna, please let Jon April know and we will make a spot for your gear!

Solar Cycle 25 is fantastic, and it is expected to peak around mid-2025. The next few years will be fun for everyone on HF. Time to upgrade to General license class!

This year we will have more radio operators, more radios and more fun, including a foxhunt Saturday, June 22, 2024, between 1200 to 1300 CDT. For dinner on Saturday, we will have BBQ so come on out!

June 22-23, 2024, Field Day will be at the City of Shavano Park's City Hall Complex, 900 Saddletree Court Shavano Park, TX 78231.

The City of Shavano Park has been a gracious host since 2003. Their support is sincerely appreciated. Field Day is open and free to the public. Bring your kids, relatives, neighbors, and anyone else who has an interest in ham radio.

73 Paul, N5IUT, President

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:

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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

San Antonio Radio Club

Meeting Minutes
7:00 p. m., May 9, 2024
Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Pre-presentation announcement:
Keith Hicks - KD5JGD, President of the Alamo Area Radio Club (AARO) announced that AARO voted on 5/8/2024 to come to the SARC Field Day 2024.
Paul Guido – N5IUT, President of the San Antonio Radio Club was very excited about the opportunity of hosting AARO members.

Presentation: Topic: – Jon April, KI5CSK – EMI reduction

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting
There being no additions, corrections, or deletions, minutes were approved with change without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT – No report – Fox Hunt on the 25th May, B-Sides 8-Jun (Paul doing a presentation on securing your domain!)

Vice President – Vacant Position

Secretary – Jack Bannin – The minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section. – no report and not present

Treasurer – Jon April, KI5CSK – no report

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – No report, no board meetings, next board meeting in Aug

Education and Training –

Emergency Communications – David Rice – No report.

Bill Craft, KD2HIQ Webmaster /Membership –
Activities for April
1. Web Site-
    a. Posted newsletters
    b. Updated balloon page

c. New RF Volunteer page for 2024

2. Groups.io
   a. Updated membership list
   b. Updated calendar
3. Mail chimp- Meeting notice -
4. Twitter
5. Facebook -Meeting notice

MEMBERSHIP

Membership	As of 5/9/2024		
Paid 129	New Members for 2024		
Military 6	First	Last	Call
Family Members 17	**Mark**	**Juli-cher**	**WX3O**
RF-Free 8			
Fee-VE 13			
ARRL Members 95			
Total Membership 171			

Notes: 4 new members from T&M Academy-waiting for name4

POTA –

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed and posted to website on May 8, 2024. Invited members to contribute information, photos, and stories for the newsletter. The deadline is Monday prior to the meeting.

Field Day – Jon April: Field Day June 22 – 23, 2024, Overnight operators are requested to sign up. Assistance is requested to haul equipment to and from Field Day request. Getting on the air is for everyone. A radio license is not required. Ice Chest and water. Tri Band Beam assembly team. John will take the generators. Add site to ARRL FD locator. Person to Setup computers. BBQ person. Sunday Breakfast and Coffee. UHF and VHF radio.

Finance and Review – No Report

JOTA – No report.

Centennial Committee – Tom O'Brien AB5XZ – Souvenirs (patches, challenge coins, pins) from the club's 2019 centennial year are still available.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason –

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P – Not present. Next testing session: April 27, 2024

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB

Monthly Activities –

Executive – No report.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – No report

Scholarship Committee – No report

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) – None.

New Business – None

Announcements – None
Richard Elder:
Fairradio.com going out of business at the end of June 2024
Harbor Freight $16.49 Drill

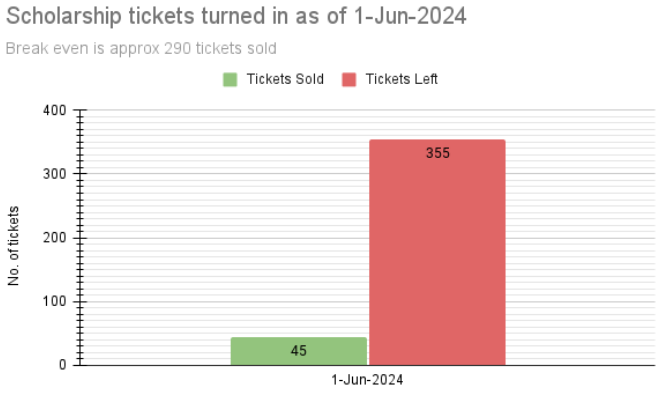
Future Programs

- June Program: Field Day
- July Program: Radio Fiesta

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:37 PM

The 2024 Robert A. Rodriguez Scholarship Fundraiser is here! 5 chances to win hot selling Yaesu Radios. Only 400 tickets sold @ $25 each. Drawing is November 14, 2024 at the club meeting.

To purchase a ticket: Mail check to: San Antonio Radio Club PO Box: 34263 San Antonio, TX 78265-4263 Ticket will be mailed to you or PayPal treasurer@w5sc.org be sure to include your name, phone # & call sign. 210-642-9391 or Treasurer @w5sc.org. For more info see the club web page at: w5sc.org



Volunteer Examiners at Work

From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Coordinator

Register at **HamTest@w5sc.org**
Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."

The schedule for the rest of the year is:

June 22 Field Day

July 20 Radio Fiesta, 1:30 PM

August 26 Leon Valley Library

Oct 28 Leon Valley Library

December To be announced.

Field Day (Continued from Page 1

Each year the City of Shavano Park issues a proclamation, signed by Mayor Robert Werner, observing "Amateur Radio Week" Here is this years edition:

Proclamation

CITY OF SHAVANO PARK

WHEREAS, the City of Shavano Park works with the San Antonio Radio Club to prepare for emergencies and licensed Amateur Radio operators have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing emergency radio communications; and

WHEREAS, for over 103 years, these Amateur Radio operators donate these services free of charge in the interest of the citizens of the City as well as the world; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators are on alert for any emergency, local or worldwide, and practice their communication skills during the American Radio Relay League's Field Day exercise; and

WHEREAS, this year's Amateur Radio Field Day for the San Antonio Radio Club will take place outside the City of Shavano Park City Hall on June 22-23, 2024 and has been doing so since 2003;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Robert Werner, Mayor of the City of Shavano Park, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby declare the week of June 22-23, 2024 as

"Amateur Radio Week"

in recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise, and call upon all citizens to pay tribute to the Amateur Radio operators that assist our City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Shavano Park to be affixed on this 13th day of May 2024.

CITY OF SHAVANO PARK

Robert Werner, Mayor

Mayer Robert Werner

Volunteers Needed for Radio Fiesta

The volunteer sign-up is located on our website.[http://%20https//w5sc.org/rf-vol/] https://w5sc.org/rf-vol/ or you can sign up at meeting.

Volunteers get 1 FREE admission & 1 FREE door prize raffle ticket for working a minimum 2-hour shift but wait, there's more, you get a FREE t-shirt to wear at event.

Definitions: Vendor: - check-in verify (scan) prepaid vendor give out vendor wristbands

Admissions: check-in verify (scan) prepaid vendor give out attendee wristbands

Security: Sit or stand by doors and verify vendor/attendees have wristband- there are doors in the front and back of the building

TailGate: Help out in tailgate area- outside parking lot- manage spaces, etc.

General Help: Can be used to help where needed- fill-in to give others a break

Note: This is our only fund raiser for the year. It helps keep our dues low, and supports VE's, Training, JOTA, Field Day and other club functions.

Need to check what time you volunteered for? https://w5sc.org/online-rf-volunteer-

tracker/Volunteer for Radio Fiesta

Radio Fiesta is only a few months away.
If you didn't get your table or ticket. get it now.

New hours and new prices for 2024

Friday , July 19, 2024

⇒ 7:00 am to 12:00 – Setup for Flea Market, Vendor.
¤ 1:00 -8:00 pm Open Vendor -Flea Market area.

Saturday, July 20, 2024

⇒ 7 am to 8:00 am – Setup for Flea Market, Vendor, and Tailgate Areas
¤ 8:00 am – Open Flea Market, Vendor , and Tailgate Areas
¤ 1 pm – Raffle Grand Prize Drawing
¤ 2 pm – Close

Admission Tickets are $15 for 2 day admission at the door or $13 (taxes& fees & 1 raffle ticket included) for online purchase.

Children under 12 , Scouts, Military and First Responders in Uniform get in FREE. Students with school ID $10 at door
The **Tailgate is on Saturday only**, its **free** to use with admission ticket.

ALL TABLES $25
NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR ELECTRIC
FREE PARKING

The table tickets are reserved by category and location. See venue map to pick your reserved location. You can see detailed floor plan map at https://w5sc.org/radio-fiesta-2024-information/. The Vendor locations (Red)have electricity on wall outlets, some Flea Market (Blue)locations have floor electric outlets. The Blue Bonnet room and the Hall (Orange)are for non-specific users, and all the tables have electricity available on wall outlets.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sarc-radio-fiesta-2024-tickets-700417777427?aff=oddtdtcreator

The Schertz Civic center is totally airconditioned for your comfort and all inside except for tailgate for a rain or shine event.

Store Closing:

Richard Elder, WB5ACN, at last meeting announced that Fair Radio Sales is closing, so some good deals to be had. Military, HAM and electronics surplus. They are also on ebay.

https://fairradio.com/

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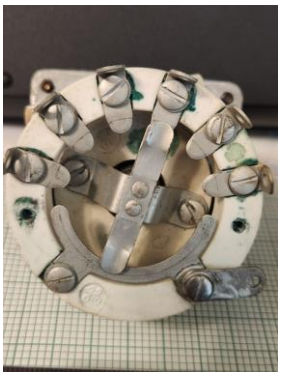
A SURPLUS MILITARY ANTENNA SWITCH (A SURPLUS FIND BY CAPTAIN GADGETEER)

For a little less than $6.00 plus shipping, you can have a six position heavy duty antenna switch (with pointer knob) to make your own antenna switch box.

From WWW.FAIRRADIO.COM

3Z9605
$5.95

One pole 6-POSITION CERAMIC TAP SWITCH for 100 W BC-375 / BC-191 transmitter tuning unit. Use for your antenna switching needs. 2.3×2.3×1.8 1 lb. (A9NN1W) Unused



With World War 2, old school quality construction, this rotary switch has six detent positions, using double sided wiping contacts over one half of its rotation.

The other half of rotation sweeps through all six contacts again, but WITHOUT the detent stops.

This way, if used as a multiple antenna switch box, you can select the desired antenna using the detent stops, OR sweep through all six antennas quickly to pick the best reception, note the numbered position and go to that detent for operation.

A good quantity is in stock, BUT order NOW as FAIR RADIO SALES is closing its doors (Orders end June 2024) after so many years in business since WW2.

FAIR RADIO SALES will close forever after the Dayton Ham Convention.

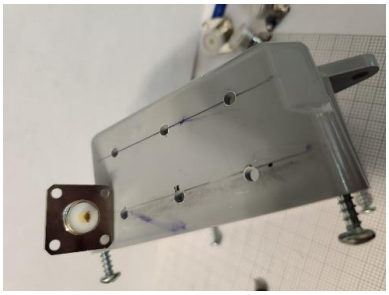
O.K. HAM Radio Operators and experimenters let the club members see what you build with one or more of these switches.

Let's take a look at one example of a 6 port antenna switch made in a 2 gang non-metallic junction box.

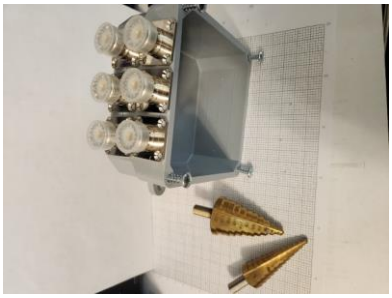
NEEDED ITEMS:

1. A 2 gang non-metallic junction box. (LOWES or HOME DEPOT)
2. The WW2 surplus 6 position switch from FAIR RADIO SALES.
3. Quantity "7" type SO-239 chassis mount connectors. (AMAZON or E-BAY)
4. Quantity "2" feet of #16 guage wire to connect the switch to the 7 R.F. connectors.
5. A strip of aluminum flashing 12" long and 2" wide. A small piece from a roll of roof flashing. (LOWES or HOME DEPOT)
6. A set of "STEP DRILLS" (HARBOR FREIGHT), and normal hand drill, drill bits, screwdrivers, needle-nose pliers, wire cutters, spring loaded center punch, paper templates, pencil, metric ruler for accurate measurements, and the patience to perform many fit checks along the way.

To start, mark the centers for the center pin of the SO-239.



Now fit check by inserting just the center contact pin of the SO-239. You are checking for proper connector to connector spacing.



Next use the step drill to drill out the “pilot” hole for the center pin, going large enough to receive extended insulator portion of the back-side of the connector.

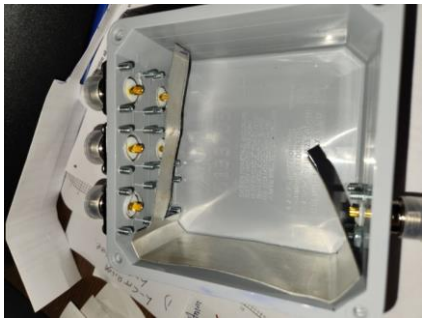
Next: perform a fit check on the inside of the box to ensure mounting screws will have space for nuts inside the box.

If it is a tight fit, use a large drill bit to dig out a space for the nut to fit on the screw.

NOTE: Large pattern hex nuts may require careful assembly, nut-face to nut-face.

Perform a fit check with all the nuts in place, and if all is correct, then REMOVE all the nuts for the grounding strap placement and fitting.

Take a piece of paper to make a template for a ground strap that runs from the input connector to the center rows of the output connector.

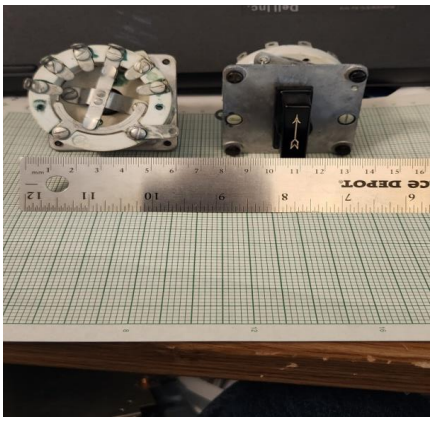


Use clamps and mounting screws to secure strap.

Next, Install the switch on the lid, slightly off center toward the input connector to give more room to connect the output wires to the six output connectors.

Make a paper template for the switch cover positions and system identification, by using the EXCEL application with the border lines turned "ON", but use the thinnest of lines, NOT the broad ones shown.

Place the paper template of the switch cover with the switch mounted and note where you can place text in each box, so when you turn off the borders, the text remains.



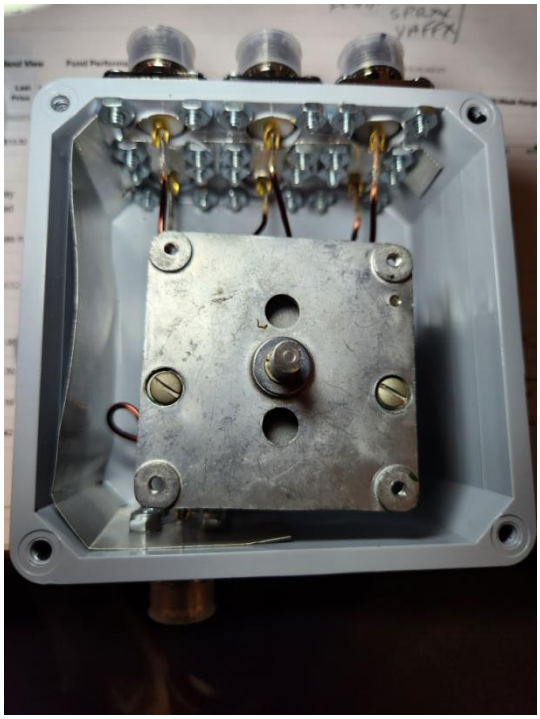
To mark the switch numbered positions, I suggest a pencil mark to locate and then comeback and use a "label maker" number set to stick on the numbered positions before laminating the entire switch label at FEDEX (KINKOS).

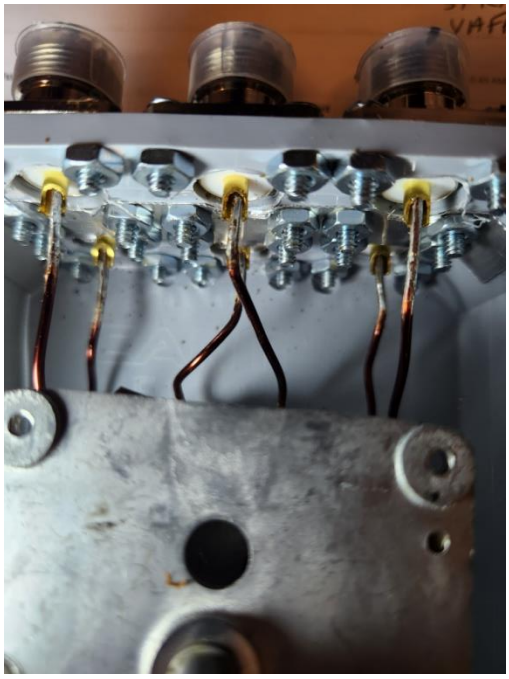
Next clean the 80 year old switch contacts and solder on short lengths of wire to connect to the 7 connectors.

The likely numbering of switch positions (looking at switch) #1 will be to the "back-right-upper level" connector. Position #2 would then go to the "back-right-lower level" connector. Connector #3 is 'back-middle-upper level", connector #4 is "back-middle-lower level", connector #5 is "back-left-upper level", and connector #6 is "back-left-lower level"

The input tab is the lonely tab sticking out the left side of the switch, and connects to the front panel input connector.

Cut and “TIN” the wire ends that go to the 7 connectors, and route the wires to the seven connectors using very long nose pliers. Bend the connecting wires to both fit the connectors AND allow the switch body to rise about ¼” above the rim of the box housing.





Route the connecting wires so they do not cross each other.

With the connector wires all attached and soldered, print the cover label without border lines, add the six position numbers using stick on labels, do one more fit check on the switch cover.

Trim the four edges back so the label is about a 1/8” INSIDE the top of the box cover edges. This is to allow for sealed edges in the laminating process.

Now print TWO copies to go to FEDEX (kinkos),.

Take the switch cover panel to FEDEX with the two copies.

At FEDEX, use the 8” X 11” laminating envelope, placing the two copies a distance apart in the laminating envelope. Allow to cool, use the large paper cutter to trim the two panel labels, and clip the sharp corner points to fit the switch cover.

Where the four corner cover mounting screws go, I used a leather hole punch tool to make clean holes in the laminated label. The four switch mounting screw holes can be made with drill bits, along with the switch shaft hole.

The finished project likely will look like this;

NOTE: The Ground Connection Added.

SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.
Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/ NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.

Reminder: there are two active X (Twitter) accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook

There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Pa

SARC SLACK

There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

JOTA

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually on the third full weekend in October.

JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. JOTA 2023 was held at McGimsey Scout Park Cub Pavilion 10810 Wedgewood Dr, Castle Hills, TX 78213.

. Anyone wanting to operate a station next year need to do the BSA Youth protection Training (YPT) and complete BSA Health forms. https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/

License Testing Dates for 2024

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com
210-570-0335

Radio Fiesta 2024

Radio Fiesta 2024 will be at Schertz Civic Center on July 19/20. Hours are 1-8PM Friday, 8AM to 2 PM Saturday with 0700 setup for vendors and tailgaters. Tickets are $13 for 2 days pre-event, $15 at the door. Children, scouts, Military and first responders in uniform free. Students with ID, $10. Tables are $25. The 2-day event features seminars and license testing on Saturmday., See details at: **https://w5sc.org/radio-fiesta-2024-information**

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
Ned Lee, KG5US
RACES Bexar County
210-344-3481/210-391-8258

David Rice, NB5K
ARES Bexar County EC 210-367-8623

Field Day 2024

Field Day exercise, June 27 – 28 at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twenty first year.*Where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio prob- lem*. Start thinking about Field Day 2024 .

SARC Meeting Dates for 2024

January 11, 2024
February 8, 2024
March 14, 2024
April 11, 2024
May 8, 2024
June 13, 2024
July 11, 2024
August 8, 2024
September 12, 2024
October 10, 2024
November 14, 2024
December – No meeting

Meetings are normally held at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216 at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p. m. for supper